

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, February 19, 2013 at 5:00 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chair Bernie Erickson, Jim Haskins, Delores Pierce, Duane Pierce, John Walschinski, Rosemary Desisles, Joe Witkowski, Sherry Steenbock, Ed Koslowski, Jerry Polus

****Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1421**

1. Call Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 5:00 p.m.

2. Invocation by Jim Haskins.

3. Approve/Modify Agenda.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SHERRY STEENBOCK, SECONDED BY ROSEMARY DESISLES TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Approve/Modify Minutes of January 15, 2013.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY JIM HASKINS, SECONDED BY DELORES PIERCE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Brown County Fair – 2013 Veterans Appreciation Day Discussion (August 14-18, 2013).

Jerry Polus reported that he made a request to the Mid America Air Force Band and received a call back that they would be unable to perform at the Fair this year due to prior commitments; however, there was some likelihood that they would be available to perform the following year. A discussion ensued regarding alternate entertainment options and the Allouez Village Band was suggested as were high school bands from the area and other military bands. Chair Erickson informed that he was aware of a Military Dixieland band that had performed recently at the library and suggested that the Subcommittee look into this possibility as well. It was indicated that the Navy also has a band however there would be a cost for the Navy band. Polus will follow up on these suggestions in the next month and make some calls and keep this Subcommittee advised of the progress he makes in securing a band. Polus also stated that someone from the Fair Board should be invited to the next meeting so we can discuss the date of the event, but he was hopeful to do it on Saturday, August 17. A discussion was held as to the format of the event and it was decided to use the same format as last year as it was very well-received. Polus also indicated that the target opening date for the new VA is August 15, 2013 so this will coincide well with the event at the Fair.

Ed Koslowski asked if Polus would be contacting John Maino to act as emcee for the event and Polus stated that he would do this closer to the date of the event, but other local personalities were also discussed in the event Maino is not available. Koslowski also stated that the Desert Vets will be participating in the Fair this year.

6. Discussion regarding recognizing military-friendly employers.

Joe Witkowski stated this was his idea, but the more he thought about this, the more he realized that it would be a massive project and somewhat daunting. John Walschinski

had created several examples of an appreciation certificate that he shared with the Subcommittee. The intent was to send the customized certificates to companies who are military-friendly employers as PR for their organization as well as PR for the Subcommittee. Each certificate can be personalized with the name of the employer.

Polus indicated he felt this was an outstanding idea but he also felt it could be a daunting task. A suggestion was made by Witkowski to publish something in the newspaper to have military-friendly employers contact a designee of the Subcommittee to obtain a certificate. Guidelines and specifications would also need to be set to define what a military-friendly employer is. Koslowski indicated that the National Guard has a program where the names of military-friendly employers can be submitted and they are announced on drill weekends. Desisles also thought that the Community Blueprint Project could be helpful in identifying military-friendly employers. It was also noted that it would be important to include language that a final determination as to eligibility would be made by the Subcommittee. Polus made a suggestion of meeting with the vet's rep at Job Services as they may have a good feel for area military-friendly employers. Erickson also suggested setting up a table at the Fair for people to sign up military-friendly employers. Witkowski stated this is not something that needs to be done right away and he liked the idea of using the Fair as a starting point.

7. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.

Polus provided an update on Veterans Treatment Court and stated that there are currently 14 people coming to court along with five others pending. Court staff continues to meet on Fridays at noon and court is then held Friday afternoons before Judge Kelley at 3:00 p.m. Polus also reported that the Veterans' Court team will be attending a grant funded week long training session in Buffalo, New York in May. Polus stated that Buffalo is recognized as one of three major veterans' treatment courts in the US and Brown County has been selected as one of 30 groups to participate in the training program. Pierce stated that he had attended a court session and urged other Subcommittee members to do the same thing.

Polus also stated that he had been at a large job fair earlier in the day in Mishicot which was very well run and well attended.

8. Report from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Bettine, Desisles, Haskins, Maino, Ness, Pierce, Steenbock, Walschinski, Witkowski).

-Bernie Erickson stated that he had recently worked a booth at the boat show and there was a booth there for the Wounded Warriors in Action group. This group stated that they would like to be invited to participate in the Fair this year. Erickson provided information to Ed Koslowski on this to include them.

-Rosemary Desisles reported that the Wisconsin Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee will hold a meeting on March 7, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. in Madison. The Wisconsin WSFAC is a voluntary military/community cooperative partnership organized to allow service providers to engage in networking and connect services and family members, veterans and wounded warriors with local military and community resources.

-Jim Haskins stated that he had recently contacted Senator Hansen's office with regard to the Veterans Day off with Pay bill and so far this bill has not been submitted, however, Haskins stated his understanding is that it is being drafted and should be submitted soon. He stated that he asked Senator Hansen's office to keep him informed of the

progress of the bill. Haskins will keep the Subcommittee updated on the progress of this.

Haskins also reported on several Barrett Jackson auctions he had seen and stated that as a result of these auctions \$300,000 was donated to Fisher House and \$500,000 was donated to Save Our Troops Foundation.

Haskins ended his report by stating that he had read an article recently that indicated an average of 22 vets commit suicide every day. He wanted to make the Subcommittee aware of this alarming statistic. He read from the article that Vietnam vets and female vets need special attention and the average age of a veteran who commits suicide is 60.

-Duane Pierce reported that Legion Post 11 will be holding their spring booyah sale on April 20 starting at noon at the Post located at 1708 North Irwin Avenue. He also wanted to know if anyone on the Subcommittee knew anyone from the 101st Airborne as Heritage Hill was looking to borrow any artifacts they could find. Anyone who could help out was urged to call Sharon at Heritage Hill.

-Sherry Steenbock indicated that four new certificates had been sent out this month.

-Joe Witkowski shared a newspaper article he had seen that indicated the daughter of a vet whom she had never met was awarded her father's missing medals, including the Purple Heart, after they were found in a locker where her mother had lived at one time. Witkowski also performed the Gettysburg Address for the members.

-John Walschinski reported that one of his sons airbrushes and paints cars and one of the cars he painted to show the 911 memorial has been on display in Louisville, Kentucky. People at the 911 Memorial in New York asked the owner of the car if they could put it in New York at the Memorial.

9. Such Other Matters As Authorized By Law.

None.

10. Adjourn.

MOTION MADE BY JIM HASKINS, SECONDED BY DUANE PIERCE TO ADJOURN AT 6:00 P.M. VOTE TAKEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary